IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended): A method for processing a parameter for an item in an electronic order processing system, said method comprising:

providing a plurality of calculation rules for calculating amounts for parameters of items;

associating one or more calculation rules from the plurality of calculation rules with a calculation code, wherein the one or more calculation rules are used to produce an amount for a parameter and wherein the calculation code has an associated qualifying method that is used to determine whether the calculation code is to be applied to the item;

associating the calculation code with an item;

responsive to initiating application of the calculation code to the item, using the qualifying method to determine whether to apply the calculation code to the item; and

responsive to a determination that the calculation code is to be applied to the item, using the one or more calculation rules to produce an amount for the parameter for the item; and

providing the amount to an output device.

3. (Previously Presented): A method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim 2, wherein the calculation rule may be modified and initiating application of the calculation code to the item remains the same.

4. (Original): A method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim 2, wherein said output device is one of (a) a printer, (b) a display device, (c) a storage medium, (d) a database and (e) a connection device.

5. (Previously Presented): A method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim 2, wherein the item is one of a plurality of items, the calculation code is one of a plurality of

calculation codes associated with the item and the one or more calculation rules are selected from a plurality of calculation rules associated with the calculation code.

6. (Original): A method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim 2, wherein said associating said calculation code further comprises selectively associating said calculation code with said item.

7. (Currently Amended): A method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim [[6]] 1, wherein ~~the associating the one or more calculation rules further comprises selectively associating the one or more calculation rules with the calculation code~~ each of the plurality of calculation rules has an associated allowable calculation attribute that determines whether the calculation rule may be combined with other calculation rules.

8. (Currently Amended): A method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim 7, wherein the ~~using the one or more calculation rules further comprises selectively using the one or more calculation rules to produce the amount~~ allowable calculation attribute has a value selected from the group consisting essentially of in combination with, not in combination with, and in addition to.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended): An electronic order processing system for use in an ordering system responsive to a transaction request associated with an item, said electronic order processing system comprising:

a computer receiving the transaction request; and

a program executed on the computer for processing the transaction request and processing a parameter for the item, the program comprising:

a plurality of calculation rules for calculating amounts for parameters of items;

an association module for associating a calculation code with the item wherein the calculation code has an associated qualifying method that is used to determine whether the calculation code is to be applied to the item;

a calculation module for applying the calculation code to the item to produce an amount for a parameter for the item, wherein the calculation module initially associates one or more calculation rules with the calculation code [[and,]]; responsive to initiating application of the calculation code to the item, uses the qualifying method to determine whether to apply the calculation code to the item; and, responsive to a determination that the calculation code is to be applied to the item, uses the one or more calculation rules to produce the amount for the parameter for the item; and

an application module for providing the amount to an output device.

11. (Previously Presented): An electronic order processing system as in claim 10, wherein the calculation rule may be modified and initiating application of the calculation code to the item remains the same.

12. (Original): An electronic order processing system as in claim 10, wherein said output device is one of (a) a printer, (b) a display device, (c) a storage medium, (d) a database and (e) a connection device.

13. (Previously Presented): An electronic order processing system as in claim 10, wherein the item is one of a plurality of items, the calculation code is one of a plurality of calculation codes associated with the item and the one or more calculation rules are selected from a plurality of calculation rules associated with the calculation code.

14. (Previously Presented): An electronic order processing system as in claim 10, wherein said association module selectively associates said calculation code with said item.

15. (Currently Amended): An electronic order processing system as in claim [[14]] 10, wherein ~~the calculation module selectively associates the one or more calculation rules with the calculation code~~ each of the plurality of calculation rules has an associated allowable calculation attribute that determines whether the calculation rule may be combined with other calculation rules.

16. (Currently Amended): An electronic order processing system as in claim 15, wherein the ~~calculation module selectively uses the one or more calculation rules to produce the amount~~ allowable calculation attribute has a value selected from the group consisting essentially of in combination with, not in combination with, and in addition to.

17-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, embodying a method for processing a parameter for an item, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of calculation rules for calculating amounts for parameters of items;

associating one or more calculation rules from the plurality of calculation rules with a calculation code, wherein the one or more calculation rules are used to produce an amount for a parameter and wherein the calculation code has an associated qualifying method that is used to determine whether the calculation code is to be applied to the item;

associating the calculation code with an item;

responsive to initiating application of the calculation code to the item, using the qualifying method to determine whether to apply the calculation code to the item; and

responsive to a determination that the calculation code is to be applied to the item, using the one or more calculation rules to produce an amount for the parameter for the item; and

providing the amount to an output device.

27. (Previously Presented): A computer program embodying a method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim 26, wherein the calculation rule may be modified and initiating application of the calculation code to the item remains the same.

28. (Original): A computer program embodying a method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim 26, wherein said output device is one of (a) a printer, (b) a display device, (c) a storage medium, (d) a database and (e) a connection device.

29. (Previously Presented): A computer program embodying a method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim 26, wherein the item is one of a plurality of items, the calculation code is one of a plurality of calculation codes associated with the item and the one or more calculation rules are selected from a plurality of calculation rules associated with the calculation code.

30. (Original): A computer program embodying a method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim 26, wherein said associating said calculation code further comprises selectively associating said calculation code with said item.

31. (Currently Amended): A computer program embodying a method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim [[30]] 26, wherein ~~the associating the one or more calculation rules further comprises selectively associating the one or more calculation rules with the calculation code~~ each of the plurality of calculation rules has an associated allowable calculation attribute that determines whether the calculation rule may be combined with other calculation rules.

32. (Currently Amended): A computer program embodying a method for processing a parameter for an item as in claim 31, wherein the ~~using the one or more calculation rules further comprises selectively using the one or more calculation rules to produce the amount~~ allowable calculation attribute has a value selected from the group consisting essentially of in combination with, not in combination with, and in addition to.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended): An electronic order processing system comprising:

a computer-readable information storage medium;

a procedure encoded on said storage medium for processing a parameter for an item, said procedure comprising:

providing a plurality of calculation rules for calculating amounts for parameters of items;

associating one or more calculation rules from the plurality of calculation rules with a calculation code, wherein the one or more calculation rules are used to produce an amount for a parameter and wherein the calculation code has an associated qualifying method that is used to determine whether the calculation code is to be applied to the item;

associating the calculation code with an item;

responsive to initiating application of the calculation code to the item, using the qualifying method to determine whether to apply the calculation code to the item; and

responsive to a determination that the calculation code is to be applied to the item, using the one or more calculation rules to produce an amount for the parameter for the item; and

providing the amount to an output device.

35. (Previously Presented): An electronic order processing system as in claim 34, wherein the calculation rule may be modified and initiating application of the calculation code to the item remains the same.

36. (Original): An electronic order processing system as in claim 34, wherein said output device is one of (a) a printer, (b) a display device, (c) a storage medium, (d) a database and (e) a connection device.

37. (Previously Presented): An electronic order processing system as in claim 34, wherein the item is one of a plurality of items, the calculation code is one of a plurality of calculation codes associated with the item and the one or more calculation rules are selected from a plurality of calculation rules associated with the calculation code.

38. (Original): An electronic order processing system as in claim 34, wherein said associating said calculation code further comprises selectively associating said calculation code with said item.

39. (Currently Amended): An electronic order processing system as in claim [[38]] 34, wherein ~~the associating the one or more calculation rules further comprises selectively associating the one or more calculation rules with the calculation code~~ each of the plurality of calculation rules has an associated allowable calculation attribute that determines whether the calculation rule may be combined with other calculation rules.

40. (Currently Amended): An electronic order processing system as in claim 39, wherein the ~~using the one or more calculation rules further comprises selectively using the one or more calculation rules to produce the amount~~ allowable calculation attribute has a value selected from the group consisting essentially of in combination with, not in combination with, and in addition to.

41. (Currently Amended): An electronic order processing system for processing a parameter for an item in a distributed network having a first computer and a second computer, said system comprising:

a computer-readable modulated carrier signal;

a first initiation code embedded in said signal sent from said first computer to said second computer, said first initiation code to initiate a first module for associating a calculation code with said item, wherein the calculation code has an associated qualifying method that is used to determine whether the calculation code is to be applied to the item;

a second initiation code embedded in said signal sent from said first computer to said second computer, said second initiation code to initiate a second module for applying

said calculation code to said item to produce an amount, wherein said second module further comprises initially associating one or more calculation rules with said calculation code [[and,]]; responsive to initiating application of the calculation code to the item, using the qualifying method to determine whether to apply the calculation code to the item; and, responsive to a determination that the calculation code is to be applied to the item, using the one or more calculation rules to produce the amount; and

a third initiation code embedded in said signal sent from said first computer to said second computer, said third initiation code to initiate a third module for providing said amount to an output device.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented): An electronic order processing system as in claim 41, wherein said second computer receives said signals and each operation within each of said first module, said second module and said third module may be modified and flow of execution amongst said first module, said second module remains the same.

44. (Original): An electronic order processing system as in claim 41, wherein said second computer receives said signals and each operation within each of said first module, said second module and said third module may be modified and flow of execution amongst said first module, said second module remains the same.